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PATENT  
Attorney Docket No. EXT-010CN

**Particulars of prior application:**

Serial No.: 09/177,243  
Filing Date: October 22, 1998  
Examiner: Joyce Tung of Art Unit 1656

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANTS: Shuber.  
SERIAL NO.: ~~Not yet assigned.~~ 09870729 GROUP NO.: 1637 Not yet assigned.  
FILING DATE: 5/30/2001 Herewith. EXAMINER: J. Tung Not yet assigned.  
TITLE: Methods for Detecting Contamination in Molecular Diagnostics Using PCR

Box PATENT APPLICATION  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Kindly enter the following preliminary amendment after assigning a filing date but before beginning examination of the patent application identified above and submitted herewith.

**In the Written Description:**

On page 1, please substitute the first paragraph (lines 1-2) with the following paragraph:

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This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/177,243, filed October 22, 1998, which claims the benefit of the filing date of provisional application Serial No. 60/063,219, filed October 23, 1997, the entire disclosures of both applications are incorporated herein by reference.

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